

EDUCATION.

There are some people in this country who are like the old Hardshell Baptist preacher, who thanked God that he had never rubbed his back against a college wall. When asked if he meant that he thanked God for his ignorance, he said that he did. He was told in reply that he had a great deal to be thankful for. But we believe that there are not many such people in this country and certainly not among our readers.

There is a fear, however, that there are a great many people who do not realize what an education is or what is its value. The tendency with an increasing number of people is to feel that an education consists in special preparation for some particular work. The fact is that education is the development and training of the mental faculties.

When a crew is being trained for a boat race the training is not limited to rowing in the boat, nor does it usually begin with that. Knowing nothing of the subject, we remember how surprised we were at college to see how such a crew was trained for the Commencement race. The training began in the winter in the gymnasium, and as the weather opened in the spring the crew was put through running exercises on the race track or on the roads. When their muscles and lungs had been developed and strengthened in this way, they were put into the boat and given special training in the use of the oars. The gymnasium training and the running were kept up during the whole training period. Through it all the most careful watch was kept on the diet and the personal habits of the members of the crew. Sometimes the young men would become restive under their long and rigorous training and be anxious to get into the boat at once. The wise coach knew what was best and continued his program.

The proper thing to do in educating boys and girls is to train their minds and brains to work. There are certain courses of study which long experience shows are particularly suited for this purpose. There is a tendency to feel that the dead languages and higher mathematics and philosophy are of no practical value. But in studying these subjects the mind receives a training that no other subjects will give.

When the boatman's muscles have been strengthened and brought under control, it will not be hard to bring them into special use.

A school or college course is not intended primarily to impart knowledge, but to train the mind to secure and use knowledge.

No boy can be given a greater temporal blessing to fit him for life's work than to be given a well trained mind.

Some boys secure the mental training in some other ways than in school and college, but these are very rare cases. The statement of those who have investigated this subject is that the vast majority of successful and professional business men is found among college men. The same thing is true of women.

Another reason for giving first a general course of education is that the young boy does not know what he is fitted for or in what he can make a success. He may be guided by some boyish fancy or by his immediate environment in making his choice, which might be very different when he was older and he had received more mental training.

High wages and salaries which are being paid today present a great temptation to a boy to rush right into some money making employment. So there is the danger of not getting the education needed.

Experience shows that the man with a thorough general education, other things being

equal, will advance in wages or salary much faster than the uneducated man.

Parents should see that their children are given the best education possible. This should be done for their own sakes and for the sake of their country and their Church.

Contributed**NOTES HERE AND THERE.**

By Rev. E. H. Harding, D. D.

Writes one thus on Satan and his temptation: "Some thoughts be the darts of Satan; and these, non-noceat, si non-placent. They do not injure us if we are not pleased with them, that is to have them. We cannot keep thieves from looking in our windows, but we need not give them entertainment with open doors. These thoughts may be passengers, but they must not be sojourners. Satan slyly conveys evil thoughts, and makes the Christian believe they come from his own heart, the cup was found in Benjamin's sack, but Joseph had it put there. So a child of God oft finds atheistical, blasphemous thoughts in his mind, but Satan hath cast them in.

"Impatience towards God's plans and promises is unbelief. Let us wait patiently and see the salvation of God. God's promises in the past have been fulfilled though long delayed. This delay gives us the opportunity for testing and developing our faith."

"We cannot despair of success," says Dr. Dale, "What though the dreary winter of the world's moral life has lasted longer than the eager hopes of the Church anticipated, we do not and we cannot despair. When the morning dawns and struggles with the gloom of night how doubtful, how gradual is the progress of the conflict. Silently the dark begins to melt in the east, but heavy clouds may still resist the splendor of the sun. Gleams of the coming brightness shoot up the heavens; their lines of glory quiver along the horizon, and prophesy the approaching day. But the mists still hang gloomily in the skies and threaten to bring the hours of darkness back and yet the ultimate victory of the light is secure. Yes, Christ is the light to lighten the Gentiles and the glory of the upper heavens shall yet scatter and chase away the darkness which broods sullenly over the earth, and the new divine life long repressed shall yet reveal itself in fair and wonderful and lavish fertility, the very deserts of the world shall be covered with a moral wealth and beauty of which the brightness of spring time, and the richest autumn are poor and pale symbols, and of which the loveliness of Paradise was only a dim and imperfect promise. The songs which filled the night with joy when Christ was born, shall be heard again with sweeter music, deeper harmonies, and more exulting raptures, all heaven shall come down to earth, thrones and dominions, seraphim and cherubim, and shining armies of angels, to celebrate with sounding trumpets and golden harps, and loud acclamations and tumultuous strain of triumph, the final victory of divine love over human sin and the restoration of our race to God. We are not mad in exulting in these happy and confident expectations. God's mercy is mightier than all the powers of the world, the flesh and the devil. We fanatics, as men may deem us, speak the words of truth and soberness."

I have seen the statement that Beza at eighty years of age could repeat the whole of St. Paul's epistles in the original Greek, and all the Psalms in Hebrew, and the learned Witsius

could recite almost any passage of Scripture in Hebrew and Greek. The book from which I quote these statements recalls Horace's line that the Roman youth should handle the Greek authors by day and night, nocturna versate manu versate diurna. How then ought Christians to study the Book of God by day and night; yet many church members neglect to acquire any profound knowledge of this book. "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly," says St. Paul. All eminent saints have lived on Bible truth, and we need to have it interwoven into the very texture of our souls. "Give me understanding," says the Psalmist, "that I may know thy testimonies and love thy commandments above gold, yea above fine gold."

Davidson College, N. C.

CHRISTMAS AND EASTER AND OUR CHURCHES.

By Rev. R. B. Willis, D. D.

The General Assembly was in session in 1899. Before it came an overture from one of our Presbyteries, asking "a pronounced and explicit deliverance against the recognition of Christmas and Easter as religious days."

The Assembly sent back to the Presbytery and to all our churches and people the following explicit reply: "There is no warrant in the Scriptures for the observance of Christmas and Easter as holy days, but rather the contrary. Gal. 4:9-11. But now after ye have known God or rather are known of God, how turn ye again to the weak and beggarly elements whereunto ye desire again to be in bondage? Ye observe days and months and times and years. I am afraid of you, lest I have bestowed upon you labour in vain."

Col. 2:16-26: "Let no man therefore judge you in meat or in drink or in respect of an holy day or of the new moon or of the Sabbath days: which are a shadow of things to come, but the body is of Christ. Let no man beguile you of your reward in a voluntary humility and worshipping of angels, intruding into those things which he hath not seen, vainly puffed up by his fleshly mind and not holding the Head from which all the body by joints and bands having nourishment ministered and knit together, increaseth with the increase of God.

"Wherefore if ye be dead (if ye died) with Christ from the rudiments of the world, why as though living in the world are ye subject to ordinances? Touch not, taste not, handle not, which all are to perish with the using, after the commandments and doctrines of men."

The reason for the publication of this deliverance is that I think it is more needed now than it was twenty years ago.

Montreat, N. C.

WHAT ARE THE FACTS?

By George Q. Peyton.

A short time since the Christian Herald of New York published an article claiming that there were great losses in the membership of the churches in 1919. This article had a wide circulation and was noticed editorially by you and also other papers. Now I am not informed as to the correctness of the figures given for the other denominations but those given for our Church were not true. The reports for the General Assembly at Charlotte show that 20,240 were received on confession of faith and that the net increase in membership was nearly 8,000, about the same number that the Christian Herald gave as being lost. Now, I would like to ask if it is a part of the duty of a Christian herald to publish untrue and damaging news about the kingdom of the Lord